

Who We Are

Founded in 2001, the Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) is a collaboration of leaders in the RI community who share the intent to substantively improve the healthcare system in the state. The collaboration includes CEOs of hospitals, health insurers, and businesses, along with leaders of consumer groups, academia, and government. RIQI's mission is to significantly improve the quality, safety and value of health care in RI.

RIQI is the officially-designated (and sole) Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) for RI and was designated by the Governor to be the State Designated Entity (SDE) for the statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE.) As the RHIO, RIQI is charged with bringing together healthcare stakeholders within the state and governing health information exchange among them for the purpose of improving health outcomes in the community.

Some of Our Initiatives and Accomplishments

currentcare, Rhode Island's Health Information Exchange

RIQI is working with the RI Department of Health (DOH), community, physician groups, insurers, and hospitals to implement **currentcare**, RI's HIE. When fully operational, the HIE will provide clinicians everywhere in the state with a longitudinal medical record for each patient who signs up to participate. Access to this information will improve the quality of care in the state, drive down costs by eliminating duplicative tests, and provide potentially life-saving medical information to doctors in emergencies.

The RI Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Collaborative

About two million infections are acquired in U.S. hospitals each year, killing about 90,000 people and adding more than \$30.5 billion to the nation's health care costs. In partnership with Quality Partners of Rhode Island, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, and RI acute care hospitals, RIQI initiated the RI ICU Collaborative to dramatically lower complications, mortality rates, and costs from these preventable infections in RI's ICUs. RI is the first in the nation to engage every hospital and cover every single adult ICU bed in the state in a collaborative improvement effort. Some of the many achievements of this program include a statewide reduction in deadly and costly central-line associated bloodstream infections by 62%, a drop in ventilator-associated pneumonia by 21%, and staff perceptions of an improved "safety climate."

Electronic Prescribing

At least 1.5 million Americans are sickened, injured, or killed each year by errors in prescribing, dispensing, and taking medications, which costs the system over \$3.5 billion a year. The RIQI took aim at this problem in 2003 by initiating a state-wide electronic prescribing (e-Rx) initiative. RI became the national beta test site for the SureScripts initiative, the country's first system of end-to-end electronic prescribing. As a result of this work, 100% of all pharmacies in RI are now capable of processing e-prescriptions, and RI has ranked #1 or #2 in the nation in advancing e-prescribing since the rankings were established in 2006.

Increasing Electronic Health Record (EHR) Adoption

A strong physician-led committee of the RIQI began addressing EHR adoption in RI in 2004. RIQI worked with RI physicians to better understand the barriers to adoption of EHRs and with the DOH to develop standards and metrics for tracking the adoption of qualified EHRs. A partnership with COMSORT studied the application of networking theories to advance EHR adoption; the learning is producing results today. Requests for copies of RIQI's guidebook for adopting EHRs, Taking Your Practice Digital, have come in from many states. RIQI launched an interactive website, www.DocEHRTalk.org, which gives physicians a venue to share information about their experiences with EHRs, a resource for learning about EHR technologies, and a place to discover the ins and outs of successful implementations.